

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Patentable subject matter was found in claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 17, 18, and 21-26. If necessary, these claims may be placed in independent form in a future amendment.

Since claim 27 depends from claim 25, claim 27 should also be found allowable.

Claim 1-3, 6-8, 11-16, 19 and 20 were rejected as being anticipated by Abdoulin, U.S. Patent No. 6,239,994. Reconsideration of these claims is requested.

Claim 16 should be allowed at least because it includes the feature of allowable claim 24.

A feature of the invention recited in each independent claim is an unregulated isolated open-loop-controlled power module which produces an unregulated intermediate bus voltage; and a plurality of tightly regulated point-of-load converters operable to convert the intermediate bus voltage into respective point-of-load voltages to power a respective number of loads.

Abdoulin does not show the recited arrangement, including the initial conversion of an input voltage into an unregulated intermediate bus voltage to enable the subsequent conversion into a plurality of POL (point-of-load) voltages. Nor does it show the claimed combination of an unregulated module and a plurality of tightly-regulated converters.

Abdoulin shows merely one single regulated converter. It provides two regulated output voltages from an isolation transformer. Regulation circuits 106, 112 perform regulation directly from the transformer. It does not show an unregulated power module, nor an unregulated intermediate bus voltage, and it does not show a plurality of tightly regulated point-of-load converters.

The Examiner cited the regulation circuits 106, 112 as being "converters." However, Abdoulin's entire invention e.g., Fig. 13 or Fig. 14 is one single regulated converter, and the circuits 106, 112 are the regulator circuits for that converter. They are not converters.

The Examiner has surprisingly repeated this error in the present Office Action, although it was pointed out in the last amendment.

The Abdoulin reference further is silent on a problem addressed by this invention, namely the unnecessary increased complexity that results when it is desired to regulate the

intermediate bus voltage. The present invention addresses that problem by providing an initial unregulated power module for providing the intermediate bus voltage and providing the regulation downstream.

For at least these reasons, allowance of claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-16, 19, and 20 is requested.

FACSIMILE CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile (571) 273-8300 to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on May 10, 2006:

James A. Finder

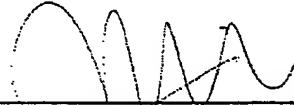
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Registered Representative

Signature

May 10, 2006

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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